GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4172
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2004
SHORTAGE OF SIM CARDS
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any severe shortage of SIM Cards to meet the demands of BSNL mobile phones in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of the steps taken by the Government to address the problem;

(c) the total number of the mobile phone connections up to 30- 06-2004 given by the BSNL, State-wise;

(d) the target fixed for the year 2004-05, State-wise; and

(e) the details of the strategy being implemented to achieve the target?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) & (b): The SIM cards are made available in adequate quantities commensurate with the available capacity. There have been capacity constraints in many parts of the country resulting in limited release of SIMs for new mobile connections. However BSNL is already in the process of expanding the present network capacity of around 6 million on date to around 9 million.

(c) & (d): The details of cellular mobile connections and target set for 2004-05 state-wise are given in the Annexure.

(e) BSNL has further expansion plans to raise the countrywide capacity of mobile network to 23 million by December 2005.

Annexure

The total number of mobile phone connections and target fixed for the year 2004-05:

S.No.	Name of LSA	Mobile connections as on 30-06-2004	Target 2004-05
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	6598	6900
2.	Andhra Pradesh	581564	459700
3.	Assam	49668	168600
4.	Bihar	168732	278300
5.	Chhattisgarh	32440	67400
6.	Gujarat	482602	563000
7	Haryana	220885	247000
8.	Himachal Pradesh	89340	89200
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	45962	49100
10.	Jharkhand	105541	112000
11.	Karnataka	350193	346400
12.	Kerala	413821	428000
13.	Madhya Pradesh	124161	202200

14.	Maharashtra	610471	719500
15.	North East-I (Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura)	15560	93300
16.	North East-II (Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland Manipur)	14430	Include in NE-I
17.	Orissa	187105	225200
18.	Punjab	304101	429000
19.	Rajasthan	274341	412700
20.	Tamil Nadu	581017	639300
21.	Uttar Pradesh	728537	767600
22.	Uttranchal	108975	109900
23.	West Bengal	297756	585700
Total		5793800	7000000